

Borough of East Retford.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1925

BY

Hanway R. Beale, M.D., Lond.,

D.P.H. Shef.; M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

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# 1925

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Total Population (estimate for the year)	...	<u>13,190</u>
„ „ (at census of 1921	... ..	13,412
Area of the Borough in acres	... ..	4,498
Number of inhabited houses (census, 1921)	...	3,123
No. of families or separate occupiers (census 1921)		3,202
Birth rate per thousand population	... ..	18.9
Death rate „ „ „	... ..	12.8
„ „ of infants under one year, per thousand births		84
Rateable value of the Boro' (for District Rate)		£55,817
Sum represented by a penny rate (General District Rate)		£227

To the  
Mayor, Aldermen, and Council  
of the  
Borough of East Retford.

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my eleventh report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough.

My report this year is longer than usual, being a Survey Report, in which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, a general review is given of the condition of the town and the progress made during the past five years.

I would here direct your attention to one outstanding improvement which you have made, the result of which is very appreciable, and that is the appointment of a whole time Sanitary Inspector. Modern progress in Sanitary Science, the multiplicity of Public Health Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations, and the enlightenment of the general public in health matters have necessitated far more work in this department

than was considered amply sufficient in the past, and the amount of work necessary is now far more than can be done by one official holding that post and that of Borough Surveyor, however able and willing he might be, and that quite apart from the fact, which I believe is the case, that the work in the latter department has increased enormously.

Another improvement is the appointment of a Veterinary Surgeon for the inspection of the milch cattle in the cowsheds of the Borough for the prevention of the sale of milk from diseased cattle.

The building of new houses for the working classes seems to have commenced now, following the lead given by the Corporation on the Hallcroft Estate, and is a state of affairs worthy of every encouragement.

It is often said that the improvements asked for by Sanitarians are costly : so they are, but is the cost when measured by the better health and greater happiness of the population coupled with the increased earning capacity arising therefrom too much ? I think not. The most superficial knowledge of the dreadful conditions existing in the early days of last century supplies an answer amply sufficient.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HANWAY R. BEALE.

Retford,

April, 1926.

## **General, Physical, and Social Conditions.**

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The Municipal Borough of East Retford is situated in the Hundred of Bassetlaw, in the County of Nottinghamshire. It is on the Great North Road A.1., 144 miles north of London, 55 miles south of York, 25 east of Sheffield, and 22 miles west of Lincoln.

The country surrounding the town is undulating, and the town lies somewhat in a hollow. The River Idle takes its course from south to north through the middle of the town. The soil is red sandstone on the west, clay on the east, a portion is built on the river fleus. There is some evidence that coal extends beneath the town and district: a six-foot seam has been recently found two miles to the north.

The climate is influenced to some extent by the smoke from the industrial towns to the west, the result being that there is a large number of days when the sky is overcast.

The year's rainfall is 25 inches.

The town is served by two lines of railway: L.N.E.R. main line from London to the North, and Manchester to Lincoln and Grimsby. There is also the Chesterfield Canal.

There are frequent services of omnibuses between various parts of the town, and also to the surrounding villages and neighbouring towns.



**Commerce.** In the main the population is dependant upon agriculture and business ancillary thereto. There are also three iron works, a wire works, a rubber manufacturing company, a dyeing and cleaning works; there is also a growing nucleus of colliers, and a considerable number of resident railwaymen.

The Corporation own the Gas Works, which have just been rebuilt and modernised under the supervision of their Gas Manager, and the plant is now one of the best and most up to date in the country. Permission has just been received to make and distribute electricity, and the plant will be installed very shortly.

There are good swimming baths, the property of the Corporation, and good use is made of them: the children from the Elementary Schools being taken regularly.

In addition to the Elementary Schools, the town has a well-known school of Edward VI foundation and a County High School for Girls.

A playing field and recreation ground was purchased in 1911, and is owned and managed by the Corporation. There is ample opportunity for outdoor sports.

Viewing the town as a whole, there is good air space between the streets and houses. The presence of the river and canal greatly aids this by providing permanent open space.

It cannot be said that any employment carried on in the town is deleterious to the health of the workers, indeed, as far as the agricultural portion of the community is concerned, there is a distinct advantage:

many women are employed in market gardening, and at certain periods school children go out pea pulling, etc.

The provision of a free library has been mooted for some time, and was referred to in my last survey report. This has now been brought considerably nearer to being a fact by the generous donation of a large and suitable house and by a promise on the part of another generous donor to equip the same. Well stocked with suitable books and used with discrimination this should be a great advantage to the inhabitants of the town, and amply repay the additional rate which will be inevitable for its upkeep.

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## **VITAL STATISTICS.**

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The population of the Census of 1921 was 13,412.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for the year was 13,190, thus estimating a fall of population of 190 from the previous year, and it is upon this figure that the statistics have been calculated. At the same time, I have no doubt that this does not give a true estimate of the population.

The natural increase, that is, the increase of births over deaths, since 1921, is 563; there are a certain number of colliers now residing in the town who were not here at the last census; 160 new houses have been built and occupied. There are no empty houses, and in addition, there is quite a large number of young married persons living in lodgings.

The births during the past year numbered 252, of which 131 were males and 124 females. This gives a birth rate of 18·9. Included in the number of births were 16 illegitimate children.

The total deaths numbered 168, of which 89 were males and 79 females, which gives a death rate of 12·8.

Deaths from whooping cough were 3 in number, 1·89 of the whole; from diphtheria there were 5, or 2·96 per cent.; tuberculosis of the respiratory system, 10, or 5·95 per cent.; other respiratory diseases, bronchitis and pneumonia, 32, or 24·5; cancer accounted for 2 deaths in men and 16 in women, or 19·5; deaths from influenza numbered 3, or 1·79 of all deaths.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, 22, which gives a rate of 84 per 1,000 births; of these, 6 were due to congenital debility, malformation, or premature birth.

There is no outstanding cause of death peculiar to the district and caused by any trade or local condition.





## General Provision of Health Services.

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**Hospitals.** There is a General Hospital supported by voluntary contributions, containing 26 beds and 5 private patient's beds. It is made good use of by the inhabitants of the town and surrounding neighbourhood. There is a Dispensary in connection with it where out-patients of the necessitous classes are seen. The hospital is well equipped, and has a good operating theatre. An X-Ray apparatus has been presented to the Institution and will be installed very shortly.

The Guardians' Institution has an Infirmary of 60 beds. These are not by any means fully occupied. There are also lying-in wards.

The amount expended in poor law relief during the past year was £3131/17/5

The Sanitary Authority has an Isolation Hospital containing 14 beds, into which scarlet fever and diphtheria are admitted. This building has been adapted for the purpose from an old dwelling house and is situated in the middle of the town. It is recognised to be unsuitable for the purpose. There are many other diseases than the two mentioned which should have accommodation in an isolation hospital but which it is quite impossible to admit to the present building. The Corporation intend as soon as the present financial conditions improve, to build a new hospital to suit the needs of the district.



There is also a wooden building, erected 23 years ago, for the isolation of small-pox. Although a temporary building, it is in excellent condition, and has been used occasionally for the accommodation of patients other than small-pox in times of epidemic.

***Ambulance Facilities.*** Since my last report, the town has been provided with a motor ambulance for the conveyance of the sick and injured. This was presented by the St John Ambulance and British Red Cross Societies, and is under the care of the Corporation.

There is a division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the town, the members of which are always willing to help in the removal of sick and injured, and who have the use of the motor ambulance when required. During the year it has run 644 miles, and removed 56 patients. The cost of running and maintenance was £24/2/5, of which the sum of £16/3/9 was recovered by return payments from patients.

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## **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

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***Maternity and Child Welfare.*** This portion of the Public Health Service is carried out by a voluntary organisation, known as the Ladies' Health Association. The services of a whole-time Health Visitor are retained. Meetings are held twice weekly, when the mothers can take their children for inspection and talks on motherhood, etc., and the clinic is visited and children inspected by a medical man every fortnight.

Milk or Glaxo is given to necessitous cases by the Sanitary Authority on the recommendation of the Health Visitor after due enquiries have been made, each case being considered on its merits. During the year there were 11 families to whom milk was allowed at the rate of one pint per day, the total amount of milk granted being 413 pints (or in some cases the equivalent in Glaxo).

### The Medical Officer of the clinic reports as follows :

There is no new effort to report, but the work goes on satisfactorily under the new Health Visitor. There has been a great deal of illness among the children, due partly to the long winter, and partly to deplorable housing conditions. On several days the weather was too bad for mothers to bring their children, unless they lived quite near the Centre.

Another Maternity Home has been opened during the year. There are now three in the town: one is very small; the others take other cases also.

#### NUMBERS :—

Individual children attending Centre	.	.	124
Total of           ,,           ,,           ,,	.	.	2741
,,           mothers           ,,           ,,	.	.	2219
First visits paid by Health Visitor—			
Homes of expectant mothers	.	.	137
,,           children	.	.	265
Total number of Home Visits paid—			
To expectant mothers	.	.	397
,, children	.	.	3259
Infant consultations with Medical Officer	.	.	47
Average number seen at consultation	,	,	75

***School Clinics.*** A clinic is held for the treatment of errors of refraction, and spectacles are provided at cost price when ordered by the Surgeon.

A Dental Clinic is held every week for the treatment of the children's teeth, and inspections are made of all the children in the schools. The number of attendances at the clinic is increasing slowly, as the parents find the benefit of the attention received, but is very far from what it should be.

The treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids and other small conditions is carried out at the General Hospital and the Dispensary, the Education Authority subscribing to the hospital every year, and having a working arrangement with the Institution.

***Tuberculosis Dispensary.*** This is situated in the town, and is under the control of the County Council.

There is no centre for the treatment of Venereal Disease.



## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

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1.—The Medical Officer of Health. Part time, is also School Medical Officer. Contribution is made to salary under P.H. Acts.

2.—The Sanitary Inspector. Whole time, holds certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, also Meat Inspector's certificate, and London City and Guilds Science Certificate. Is also an Inspector under the Petroleum Acts. Contribution made to salary under P.H. Acts.

3.—A Sanitary Inspector, part time, qualified as F.R.C.V.S., appointed specially to inspect milk cattle in cowsheds for disease.

4.—The Matron of the Isolation Hospital; whole time, is on the State Register of Nurses.

Professional nursing in the home. No special arrangements are made for this. It is possible to obtain the services of a nurse from the Hospital for giving some assistance on occasion as may be required.

*Midwives* are under the control of the County Council. There are 5 practising in the area.

*Chemical Work.* No arrangements are in force for this. With regard to analysis of foods, this is done by the County Council, the report of whose inspector is appended later.



***Legislation in Force.*** The following adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890

The Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1907, part 2 except sec. 23 ; part 3 secs. 34, 35, 37 and 43 to 51 inclusive ; parts 4, 5, 6, 10.

The Public Health Act 1925, parts 2, 3, 4, and 5 (certain sections are subject to approval of Minister of Health, which has been applied for but not yet granted).

The Public Libraries Act (1882), 1923.

There are Bye-laws relating to the following :—

Slaughter Houses, 1922.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, New Streets, and Buildings, 1925.

Coronation Playing Field, 1914.

Good Rule and Government, 1917.

Markets, 1923.

Nuisances, 1923.

Public Sanitary Conveniences, 1921.

Offensive Trades, 1924.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops (Regulations) 1907.

Employment of Children and Young Persons, 1922.

Common Lodging Houses, 1925.

Public Baths, 1921.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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**Water.** The water supply is obtained from deep wells situated in the parish of Ordsall on the west of the town. The wells are driven into the red sandstone above the bunter beds, and the quality of the water is all that could be desired. It is free from contamination, and except for a few fresh water infusorians is practically bacteriologically pure. It is reasonably soft but contains sufficient hardness to have no solvent effect on lead piping.

The service is constant. During the past year, the total amount pumped was 208,970,000 gallons, of which 141,910,000 gallons were for domestic and 67,060,000 for trade purposes, this means a consumption of 43 gallons per head per day.

There is an ample supply for present wants, but with the discovery of coal in the underlying strata and development of new collieries in the near future the water question may become acute. The water bearing area is some 70 miles long and 12 miles wide, and from this area water is taken for the supply of Nottingham (part), Mansfield, Worksop, Retford, and Lincoln. New towns of collieries at Ollerton, Edwinstowe, and Bothamsall will require water in addition to an expected increase in the population and trade of Retford. Lincoln is limited to 3 million gallons per day, and then only if water is available for the local inhabitants. Lincoln Water Act provides that the situation shall be reviewed in 30 years from its commencement, and the

then needs of Nottinghamshire considered with regard to the continuance of the supply being taken for Lincoln.

The water supply for the town and district being so limited, it will be necessary to watch very closely for any waste when new colliery shafts are sunk, and to adopt means for conserving the supply in this natural but limited reservoir.

***Rivers and Streams.*** The River Idle passes through the town, and the town is bounded on the north by the old Idle drain which conducts water from some of the low-lying land not draining into the river.

Formerly the amount of pollution of the river and drainage dykes was considerable, but this has now very largely been abated. No excrementitious matter now finds its way into the river, but there is some polluted surface water from yard drains, the amount is negligible. Some pollution of the river is caused by the presence of oil from engine washings; this is not constant, and efforts are being made to control the nuisance.

***Drainage and Sewerage.*** The sewage disposal is by means of settlement tanks and surface filter beds, the sewage being lifted from the level of the town to the Bollam purifying works by Schone's method. The purification is very thorough, and the effluent is good. Rain and surface water is carried by a separate system of sewers and flows into the river.

***Closet Accommodation.*** The conversion of privies and pail closets to water closets is now complete. There remain only a few pail closets, and these belong to houses which should be condemned for habitation



and have been left only because of the housing shortage. The hamlet of Little Gringley has privy middens. It is not in the drainage area, and is entirely rural in nature; it is situated well away from the urban portion of the town.

The total number of pail closets remaining in the town is 14.

**Scavenging** is undertaken by the Corporation under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The work is performed efficiently throughout the town. A nuisance has been caused by the use of open carts, and efforts are being made to check this by the use of covers. The obvious solution of the difficulty by the use of four-wheeled covered carts is not possible owing both to the inconvenience of many of the smaller streets being open at one end only, and the difficulty of manœuvering these carts at the refuse tip.

All the houses are provided with movable covered metal ashbins.

**Sanitary Inspection.** The district is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and by myself in conjunction with him where advisable. The result of the inspections is given in the Inspector's Report for which see page 35.

**Smoke Abatement** gives little trouble in the area, and no action has been necessary.

Since the last survey report, there have been byelaws relating to common lodging houses and offensive trades. These are now well regulated and no nuisance has been found.



There are no houses let in lodgings in the technical sense, but there is a large number of houses in which lodgers are taken, not only single lodgers but married couples sometimes with families. This will right itself as the number of new houses built increases.

***Schools.*** The sanitary condition of the schools has been commented on in my report to the Education Authority. They are all of an old type, and not in the best condition. They are receiving careful consideration as to the best method of dealing with them to improve the accommodation. They are all provided with a good water supply. On the outbreak of any infectious disease amongst the scholars, the infected child is excluded and a careful watch kept upon the contacts. No school closure has been necessary, nor is it considered politic to close unless under very exceptional circumstances.

***Common Lodging Houses.*** Bye-laws for the conduct of common lodging houses have been adopted and sanctioned, and their provisions as to air space, separation of the sexes and married quarters are carried out efficiently.

***Offensive Trades.*** These are few in number, and are regulated by bye-laws, and no complaints have arisen.



## HOUSING.

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Like most other towns, the Borough of East Retford is suffering from a shortage of houses.

In spite of the fact that the Corporation carried out a building scheme whereby 124 new houses were erected, and others by private enterprise, the demand seems no less, and there is a long waiting list for the Corporation houses. The number of married couples occupying lodgings is still considerable, although it is impossible to give actual numbers. Taking this into consideration and also the number of houses which should be demolished as not being up to modern standards of what is necessary and healthy, I consider that the number of new houses required at present is not less than 300. The fact of coal having been found in the immediate vicinity of the town will necessitate, in the near future, a considerable expansion. This, however, will not be just yet, and it is probable that if and when a colliery is sunk it will be provided with a housing scheme of its own.

To combat the shortage during the past year there have been 50 houses erected by private enterprise, 46 of which were assisted by the Government subsidy. In addition, the Local Authority made arrangements to build 40, and a commencement on these has been made.

**Overcrowding** is fairly common. One cause is the shortage of houses, while another is the impossibility of many of these householders paying the rent of a

house sufficiently large for a family. In cases where more than one family were found in an overcrowded house steps have been taken to get them removed, and efforts were made to get large families into more commodious houses. These were occasionally successful.

The general standard of working-class houses is moderately good, and the newer type of house is usually kept in a good state of repair. In the older parts of town there are many houses in locally congested areas. The defects amongst them generally are dampness, lack of air and sunlight, cramped narrow yards and alleys, and general decay. The only remedy for the majority of these is demolition and rebuilding under a better scheme.

There is a peculiarity in these houses in that although they are cramped together as they stand, they are surrounded by abundant open space.

After an inspection of the worst houses in the town, 47 were reported as unfit for habitation and not capable of being made fit. Seven of these have been closed, and the remainder will be closed when accommodation can be provided for the tenants. The work of operating the Defective Houses Clauses of the Public Health Act 1925, is hampered by the dearth of houses, and it is to be hoped that the building of new houses which seems to have commenced will proceed without any abatement. With the exception of a few houses on the list for demolition all are supplied with water closets, but there are some cases where one closet has to serve two houses.

No formal representations have been made regarding unhealthy areas as it is felt that nothing can be done until there are considerably more houses than at present exist.



Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total, including numbers given under (b)	50
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons	46

(1) Unfit dwelling houses—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	196
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	68
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	47
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	149

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	98
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(3) Action under statutory powers—

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1



(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders . . . . .	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made . . . . .	7
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit . . . . .	Nil
(4) The number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made . . . . .	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders . . . . .	Nil

NOTE.—The total number of houses erected since June, 1921, is 96.

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## FOOD.

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**Milk.** The dairies, cowsheds, and milk shops are not in as hygienic a condition as is desirable, especially when one considers the enormous importance of milk as a food for everyone, and especially for the delicate digestive organs of children, and the ease with which poisonous organisms can grow and flourish in it. England lags far behind the continental nations, especially Denmark and Sweden, in the amount of milk consumed per head of the population and in the organisation obtaining for a pure clean milk supply. So far as the cowsheds are concerned, their reconstruction on thoroughly hygienic plans would be far too expensive to be thought of. A very great deal more might be done than is done as regards the cleaning of the cows, milkers' hands and clothes, and in methods of milking and the sterilization of the vessels and the distribution of the milk without

adding materially to the cost and raising the price to the consumer. When one finds that the organism predominating in an ordinary sample of milk is an organism peculiar to excrement, it shews that the conditions governing milk supply are very far from what they should be, and in fact are disgusting. The real remedy for this is an insistence by the public that they will have clean milk.

The cattle are inspected regularly by a veterinary surgeon, and any cow suspected of giving tuberculous milk is tested and dealt with. His report will be found on page 44.

The quality of the milk as to fats, etc., is supervised by the County Council Inspector of Food and Drugs.

No licenses have been granted for sale of Pasteurised or Grade A milk.

**Meat.** The meat is inspected by the Meat Inspector at the slaughter houses at the time of killing or very soon afterwards, in accordance with the meat regulations. Details are given on page 37.

**The Slaughter Houses** are controlled by bye-laws and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Meat Inspector. Bye-laws are adhered to very well, and there is very little complaint. The condition of the buildings is by no means all that can be desired, and the fact that the slaughter houses are scattered all over the district adds enormously to the work of meat inspection. The obvious remedy for this is a public abattoir maintained by the Corporation.

One registered slaughter house has been given up.

Number of slaughter houses in the district :—

Licensed	...	...	...	6
Registered	...	...	...	10

The butchers were circularised by letter calling attention to the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1925, of which the following is a copy :—

TO EVERY BUTCHER AND PURVEYOR OF MEAT IN THE  
BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

SIR,

11th February, 1925.

I am directed by the Sanitary Committee to address you on the subject of the Meat Regulations, 1924, issued by the Ministry of Health, a copy of which is enclosed for your perusal.

I have to call your attention particularly to the following sections, viz. :—

8. This provides that before slaughter, three hours' notice must be given to the Sanitary Authority of the time and place of slaughtering; the notice should be sent to the Sanitary Inspector in the Square, and may be written or by word of mouth.

This does not apply to the slaughter of animals injured by any accident. These may be slaughtered at once, but notice must be given of the slaughtering as soon as possible. The same applies to cases of illness of an animal, or of exposure to infection.

When animals are slaughtered regularly at fixed times on fixed days, one notice should be sent to say that such is the custom, giving the days and time. This notice will then be sufficient so long as these times are kept to, further notice being required only for an extra occasion.

9. This makes obligatory what is the usual custom in the Borough.

10. This section provides that the carcase and internal organs of a slaughtered animal, except the stomach, intestines, and bladder, shall not be removed until inspected.

There are certain exceptions to this as stated in the subsections.

11. The notices as to slaughter should be sent to the Sanitary Inspector, at the Office in the Market Square.



13. The practice of inflating any portion of a carcase with the breath, etc., is forbidden.

PART III deals with the marking of meat on inspection, and is dependant on the consent of the owner of the carcase.

I shall be glad to have your views as to this that I may lay them before the Committee.

PART IV deals with stalls, and provides for the protection of meat from contamination by mud, dust, and flies, all of which are important.

PART V deals with shops, stores, etc., and in the main makes the same requirements as those in the Borough Bye-laws, but your attention is particularly directed to section 20, sub-section 5 (a), by which it would appear that shop windows should be glazed, at least in the lower portion, and that there must be some arrangement of fly-proof screening in the warmer months when flies are prevalent.

PART VI deals with transport and handling.

The whole idea of the section is to ensure cleanliness under all conditions of handling.

In conclusion, I would refer to a practice mentioned in a letter from the Ministry of Health covering these Regulations, namely, the objectionable practice of handling, by the public, the meat exposed for sale. It was considered that this could not well be dealt with by Regulations imposed on the trade, as it is the customer who is at fault, but that the co-operation of the trade might be invited in securing its discontinuance. I feel sure that the traders of this Borough will do all that they can to assist the Sanitary Authority in its efforts to ensure the good health of the town by discontinuing such a fruitful source of contamination.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HANWAY R. BEALE.

These regulations are, as a whole, faithfully adhered to, and in particular, I would like to mention that all the butchers willingly provided glazed lower portions to their shop windows for the protection of meat from mud and dust from the street.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.** This is administered by the County Council, the report of whose Inspector is found on page 46.



## **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

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The town has been fortunate in not having had any great amount of infectious disease since 1920. Small epidemics of measles and chicken pox amongst school children have occurred, and there have been two quite small epidemics of mumps. Encephalitis lethargica has not been noticable to the extent that has occurred in some places. Sporadic cases of malaria, dysentery, and trench fever have occurred during the past five years: all of these cases have been in men who have served in the forces of the Crown abroad. In the cases of dysentery, very particular attention is paid to ensure that the patient has nothing to do with the food supply.

Arrangements are made by the County Council whereby specimens from the throat can be examined for diphtheria bacilli and sputum examined for tuberculosis, and good use is made of these facilities.

All cases of infectious disease notified are visited and search made for contacts, and instructions for the avoidance of the spread of infection are given.

No use has so far been made of the Dick or Schick tests in the Borough.

The Medical Officer of Health made one primary and two re-vaccinations under the Small-pox Prevention Regulations : these were in addition to contacts vaccinated by the Public Vaccinators.

Verminous persons can be cleansed at the Guardian's Institution, and their belongings disinfected at the Corporation disinfecting station.

On the termination of a case of infectious disease in a house or its removal to the Isolation Hospital, the premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Staff, and the bedding and clothes are removed to the disinfecting station where they are passed through a steam disinfecter.

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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**Small-pox.** One case occurred in April. The infection, so far as it could be traced, was probably from nomad gipsies. Prompt isolation of the patient and vaccination of the contacts prevented the spread of infection to others and averted an epidemic. The patient was an unvaccinated child.

Some doubt was expressed as to the genuineness of the case, but although a mild case, the distribution of the pocks was typical and vaccination failed to take.

It may be noted that the cost to the town of this one case was about £40, and this serves as an indication of what a real epidemic would cost if the infection got a hold upon the very largely unvaccinated population.

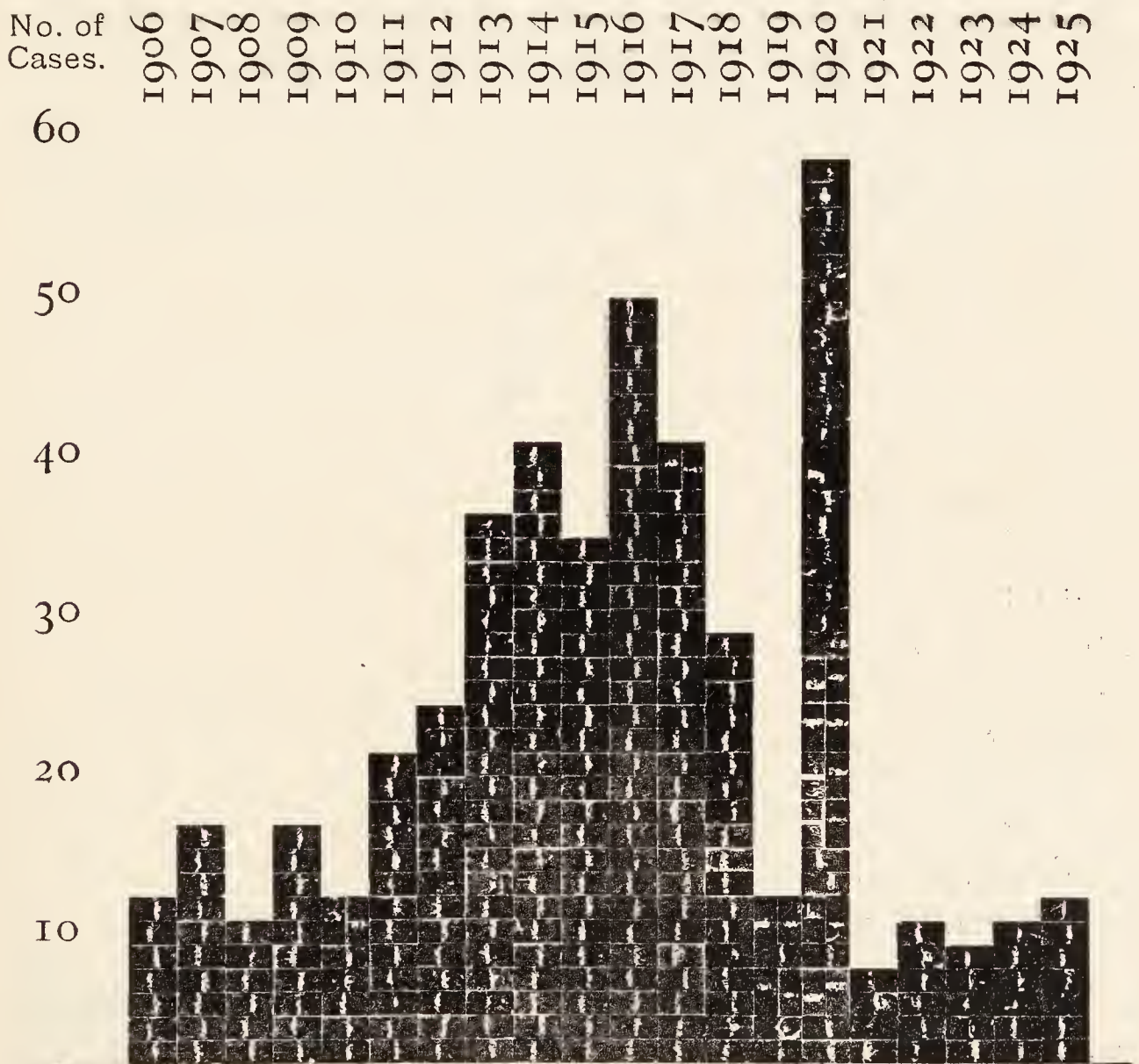
**Scarlet Fever.** There were ten cases which occurred fairly uniformly through the year.

Except for an epidemic in 1920, this disease has shown a decline since 1916, as may be seen from the diagram :—

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### SCARLET FEVER, 1906—1925.

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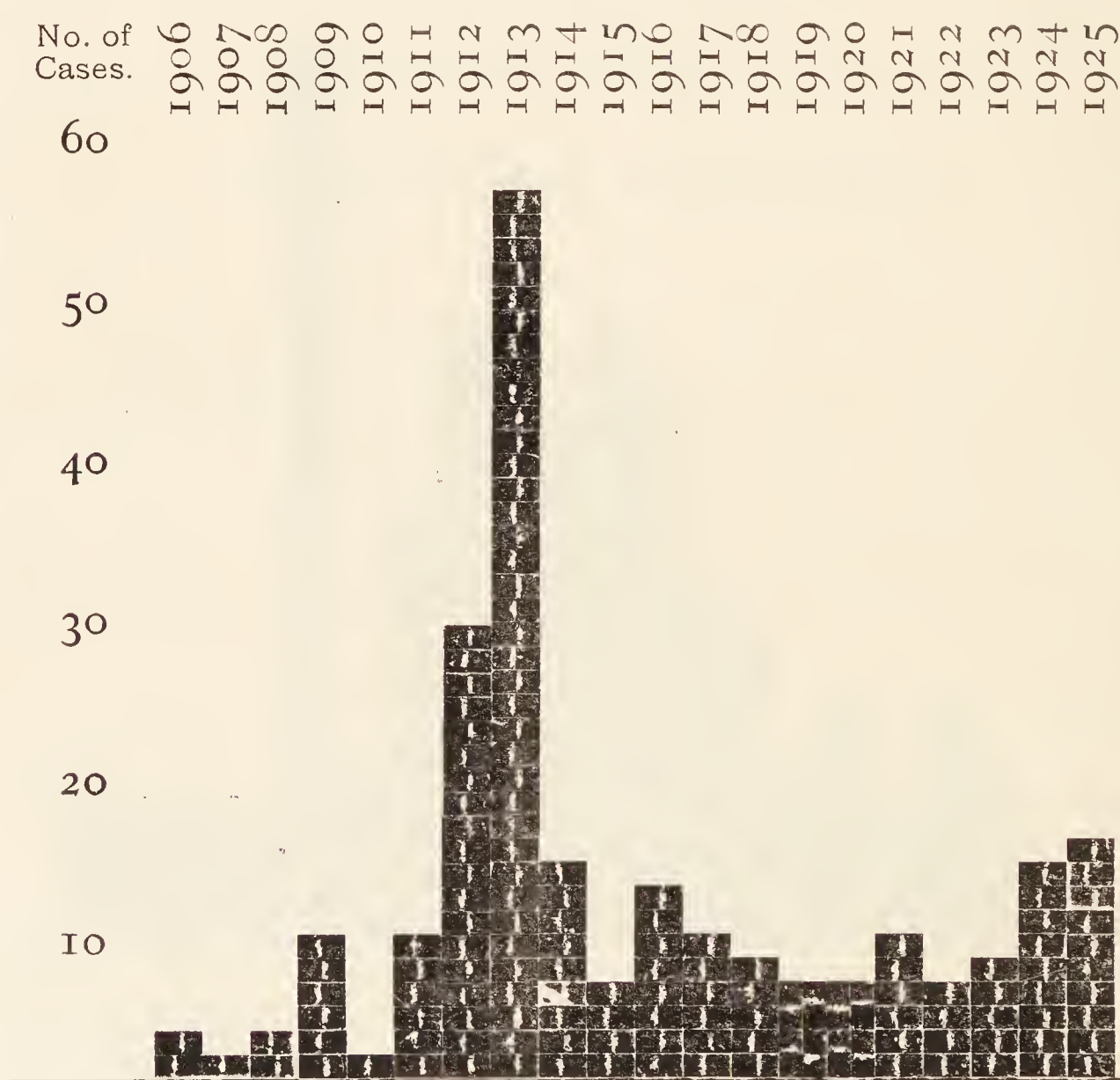




**Diphtheria.** There were 16 cases of this disease, of which 5 were fatal, giving a mortality of 31·4. Most of the cases occurred in the East Retford and Ordsall districts.

During the past ten years, as shown by the diagram, there has never been a year without a case, and a severe epidemic occurred in the years 1912 and 1913. Although there were then a large number of cases, there was only one death. The cases during the past year seem to have been of a much more severe type. During the past four years there seems to be indicated a rise in the incidence of this disease.

### DIPHTHERIA, 1906—1925.





**Chicken-pox.** This disease is notifiable in the Borough. During the year there were 25 cases notified. There were probably more cases than this, because, in spite of advertisement, it does not seem to be realised that all cases must be notified by the householder, whether they are attended by a doctor or not, and in mild cases, where a doctor is not called in notification is not always carried out.

**Pneumonia.** Thirty-six cases were notified. The bulk of them were in East or North Retford, in the low-lying and oldest portions of the town.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis.** Seventeen cases were notified during the year. There were 9 cases removed to Sanatoria. The deaths from this disease numbered ten: of course this does not imply that these ten were identical with the 17 notified. It is difficult to say whether this disease is increasing or not. In the early days after 1912, notification was not well carried out, and even now leaves much to be desired from a statistical point of view. The deaths each year have been fairly constant, except in the two years, 1919 and 1922, when there was an increase, which may have been due to climatic or other disturbing conditions.

**Enteric or Typhoid Fever** is practically unknown in the town. There has been no case since 1913, when there was one case. In this respect there has been great improvement, and it may be fairly ascribed to the fact that there has been a progressive diminution in the number of pail closets and privy middens, all the houses (with about half-a-dozen exceptions) having been connected with the deep drainage system.

**Influenza** has been fairly prevalent, slight epidemics having occurred most years, but these have not been of the severity of those of 1918 and 1919.

*Table showing number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1925.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases notified in whole district.								Total cases notified in each locality				No. of cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						Fast Retford	West Retford	North Retford	Odsall		
		under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—64					65 & over	
Pneumonia ... ..	22	1	3	5	4	4	3	2	10	1	9	...	...
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	14	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	1	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	16	...	3	8	4	...	...	1	5	2	2	...	...
Chicken-pox ... ..	25	...	4	21	...	...	...	...	1	14	6	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	...	2	5	...	3	...	...	4	1	...	...	...
Malaria... ..	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	13	...	1	...	...	4	7	1	4	...	3	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	17	...	...	4	6	4	3	...	7	...	3	...	...
Non-Pulmonary " ... ..	8	...	1	5	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ... ..	133	8	21	49	15	23	13	4	44	23	27	39	15

*Table showing Infectious Diseases notified month  
by month during 1925.*

Month	Pneumonia	Broncho-Pneumonia	Diphtheria	Chicken-pox	Scarlet Fever	Malaria	Erysipelas	Small-pox	Trench Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Totals
January	...	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	16
February	...	1	2	5	1	4	...	...	...	1	1	11
March	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
April	...	2	1	...	1	...	2	1	1	2	...	14
May	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	11
June	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9
July	...	1	...	7	1	...	1	...	...	3	...	13
August	...	...	...	4	3	1	4	...	...	3	1	19
September	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	7
October	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	6
November	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	7
December	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Totals	22	14	16	25	10	6	13	1	1	17	8	133

*Table of Causes of Death during the year 1925.*

CAUSES OF DEATH					Males	Females
ALL CAUSES ... ..					89	79
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...		
2	Small-pox	...	...	...		
3	Measles	...	...	...		
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...		
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	1
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	4	1
7	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	5
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	2	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	2	16
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	2	1
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	9	7
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	5	5
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	4	2
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	7
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	10	10
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	...
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	3	...
22	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	2	1
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	2	2
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation (premature birth)	...	...	...	6	...
29	Suicide	...	...	...	1	...
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	5	1
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	16	11
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	2
Special causes (included above)—						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year ... ..					14	8
Total ... ..					1	...
Illegitimate ... ..						
TOTAL BIRTHS ... ..					138	124
Legitimate ... ..					131	115
Illegitimate ... ..					7	9
POPULATION ... ..					...	13,190



## Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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*To the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Borough of East Retford.*

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Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1925.

Seventy-five complaints were received during the year and were forthwith investigated, nuisances being found to exist in 58 cases.

135 preliminary notices were served during this time, statutory notices being necessary in 9 cases in order to get the work done. I have to report that most of the owners of cottage property do what they can to keep the houses in a reasonable condition, but great difficulty has been experienced with one or two obdurate owners. Legal proceedings were taken under Sec. 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875. in one case, an order of the Court being obtained. This not being obeyed, the Corporation did the work necessary and are taking steps to recover the money.

The rents of cottage property in Retford are extremely low, and this operates against extensive repair and alteration schemes. Further remarks on the housing question will be found in another part of this report.

*Summary of Nuisances dealt with.*

Foul or defective drains and closets	...	...	51
Defective roofs, spoutings, and dampness	...	...	30
Defective sinks, wastes, and yard paving	...	...	27
Houses without proper ashes accommodation	...	...	53
Nuisances from manure or animals	...	...	21

*Contravention of Bye-laws, Orders, etc.*

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses and Food Stores	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	6
Common Lodging Houses	.....	...	3
Factories and Workshops....	.....	...	4

*Common Lodging Houses.* There is one common lodging house on the register in Retford, there being accommodation for 35 adults and 2 children. The house is inspected at intervals, and is usually kept in a clean condition. During the year bye-laws on lodging house management were passed giving much greater power to the Local Authority.

*Canal Boats.* Ten boats were inspected during the year, and with one exception, were found to be in order. One boat had no water vessel on board, and a communication with the owners was made, who promptly provided the proper vessel.

*Van Dwellings.* On occasion, we have had van dwellers in the town, and inspections were made of the vans. In many cases it was necessary to warn them against littering the camping ground with refuse.

*Ice Cream.* The premises used for the manufacture of ice cream were inspected during the summer months, repeat visits being necessary in one case.

*Rats and Mice Destruction.* The work entailed under the 1919 Act has received my attention during the year, and 46 visits were made during the year. A considerable amount of propaganda was instituted, and I should like to thank the Retford Press for the very able assistance they rendered.

During Rat Week considerable enthusiasm was roused in the town, and I have received evidence of a large number of rats being destroyed. In addition, poison was used extensively with gratifying results. My advice was sought by occupiers of rat infested property, and in two cases rat-proofing was adopted.

*Summary of Visits.* The following is a summary of the visits made by me during the year as Sanitary Inspector :—

To Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	693
„ Shops and Stalls re Food Inspection			...	440
„ Properties re Nuisances		...	...	248
„ Properties under notice		...	...	147
„ Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	51
„ Factories and Workshops		...	...	64
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	28

To Offensive Trades	...	...	...	30
„ Petrol and Carbide Stores	...	...	...	73
„ Van Dwellers ...	...	...	...	18
„ Premises re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	150
„ Houses under the Housing Act	...	...	...	118
„ Premises re Rats	...	...	...	46
„ Shops re Shops Act	...	...	...	24
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	94
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	181
				—
Total				2405
				—

*Petroleum Acts.* All the petrol and carbide stores have been visited during the year, and in a few cases it was found necessary to insist upon alterations being made. All the stores are now in a satisfactory condition, the great bulk of the spirit being stored underground or behind retaining walls.

At the end of the year licenses were issued for over 100,000 gallons of petrol, and the number of stores is rapidly increasing.

*Closet Accommodation.* The work of closet conversion in the Borough is practically complete, the few remaining privies and pails being either out of the drainage area or attached to houses that should be condemned.

*Cowsheds and Dairies.* These premises were all visited during the year, and on the whole were found to be in a satisfactory condition. Retford, being a country town, is supplied with milk direct from the farm, the milk either being retailed by the farmer or the milk is



transferred from the farmers' carts to the retailers' in the street and is forthwith delivered.

It was necessary to serve notices in five cases with respect to contraventions, and in another case a communication with the owner of a cowshed resulted in some necessary repairs being put in hand.

It has also been necessary in a few cases to warn traders re transferring milk from churn to churn in the road.

No certified, graded, or pasteurised milk is on sale in the Borough.

*Factories and Workshops.* It was found necessary to serve four notices re defects during the year, and some difficulty was experienced in inducing an owner to abolish an insanitary urinal attached to a factory. 64 visits were made, principally to workshops.

*Slaughter Houses and Food Inspection.* This important work absorbed a large proportion of my time during the year, more so on account of my endeavour to fit in my visits with the time of slaughter. There are 16 slaughter houses in the Borough, some being situate on the outskirts of the town, and owing to this fact it is extremely difficult to inspect all the meat slaughtered.

The local butchers have a mutual insurance scheme by which the members are compensated for all tuberculous meat condemned. As this plan largely removes the incentive I have found that the butchers have co-ordinated with the department in this work. There is no such scheme in existence amongst the pork butchers, and although this may not be cause and effect, there was

a much greater tendency to slackness in reporting diseased pork.

The amount of meat condemned during the year was 3,765 lbs., the greater portion of which was tuberculous beef and pork. The quality of the cattle slaughtered in Retford is very high, nearly all the beasts being young heifers and bullocks.

The standard of cleanliness in the meat trade is good, notices having to be served for contraventions in only five cases. All the shops are now provided with glass windows, and clean coverings are provided for meat in transit. There is a serious lack of efficient cold storage in the town.

*Bakehouses.* Inspections have been made of all these premises, 28 visits having been made. Contraventions were found in six cases, one notice being received from the Factory Inspector. In all cases the notices were complied with.

*Refuse Removal and Cleansing Department.* This work has absorbed much time during the year, as very considerable supervision is necessary to get the work efficiently performed. There are 14 men regularly engaged upon this work, and it is necessary to borrow a man occasionally from the Surveyor's Department.

During the year 3,471 loads of refuse were tipped at the Bolham tip and were covered with soil to a depth of from 18 inches to 2 feet.

The road sweepings were sold to a market gardener in the town and were carted from the depot almost daily in order to prevent any nuisance from flies, etc.

The carting is by contract, and was well done during the year. I should like to acknowledge the very able assistance given to me in this work by Mr. E. Rawlings, the road foreman.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK R. SMITH,

Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Supt.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1925, for the

## Borough of East Retford

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,  
1901, in connection with

## Factories, Workshops, & Workplaces.

### **1. *Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,***

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors  
or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises [1]	Number of		
	Inspections [2]	Written Notices [3]	Occupiers prosecuted [4]
FACTORIES ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	17	2	...
WORKSHOPS ... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	75	8	...
WORKPLACES ... .. (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	...	...	...
Total ... ..	92	10	...



***and Workplaces.***

Particulars	Number of defects:			
	Found [2]	Remedied [3]	Referred to H.M. Inspector [4]	No. of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted [5]
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	6	6	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	2	1	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective	4	4	...	...
{ not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakelhouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... .. (excluding offences relating to outwork & offences under the Sections mention- ed in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Trans- fer of Powers) Order, 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	12	11	...	...

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

## REPORT ON MILK CATTLE.

---

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that I have examined the cows in the Borough of East Retford with the following results :—

1—The two reacting cows mentioned in my last report have been destroyed.

One old red cow examined, but could not find definite symptoms.

2—One cow with enlarged udder, milk stopped, examined for T.B., negative ; found streptococci dried off and fed for beef.

3—Cows showed marked improvement in condition since last inspection.

4—Roan cow removed to knacker. Thin red cow died suddenly and was found affected with tuberculosis or P.M.E.

5—One cow with enlargement in udder, microscopical examination negative. Another cow with mammitis, warned not to sell milk.

6—Suffered much from old cow and advised him to destroy her. Later she was sent to the knacker and found affected with tuberculosis.

7—Red cow snoring, diagnosis actinomycosis in nasal cavity, treated and improved.

8—Red cow showing active tuberculous symptoms. she was taken up under the Tuberculosis Order and found affected.

9—Cow with advanced tuberculosis, taken up under T.B. Order and destroyed.

10—Cow with indurated udder, microscopical examination, sug. T.B. ; arranged for milk to be boiled and used for calves. Another cow in poor condition was taken up under the T.B. Order and found affected.

11—Roan cow with abscess in udder, stopped milk, microscopical examination, milk and pus T.B. negative. While under examination this cow developed symptoms of a foreign body in the chest and was sent to the knacker. P.M.E. showed poison resulting from the presence of some foreign body. The cow was free from tuberculosis.

Since the introduction of the Tuberculosis Order last September, I have been able to remove certain cases and allow compensation, which is more satisfactory than allowing the cases to drag on until the owner thinks he will destroy them and deal with the milk as he thinks fit.

I have recently had a case of advanced tuberculosis in a cow just outside the Borough, the milk from which was being sold in the Borough. It raises the question whether milk should not be occasionally examined.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD HUDSON, F.R.C.V.S.

## SUMMARY OF FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

*taken in the Borough of East Retford for the year  
ending December 31st, 1925.*

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Article.	Bought.	Taken at farms.	Genuine.	Adulterated
Butter ...	2	...	2	...
Condensed Milk	1	...	1	....
Cocoa ...	1	...	1	...
Epsom Salts .....	1	...	1	...
Gin ...	3	...	2	1
Margarine ....	1	...	1	...
Malt Vinegar ...	1	...	1	...
Milk ...	99	54	153	...
Sweet Nitre ...	1	...	1	....
Tincture of Iodine	1	...	1	...
Tincture of Rhubarb	1	...	1	...
Whisky ...	5	...	5	...
	<hr/> 117 <hr/>	<hr/> 54 <hr/>	<hr/> 170 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>

New Milks.			Bought.		Taken at Farms.	
			Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
FAT	...	...	4.0%	3.0%	4.8%	3.0%
S.N.F.	...	...	9.57%	8.55%	9.2%	8.7%

On the whole the milk was fairly clean,



*Adulterated Gin.*—This sample was purchased from an hotel, and was found on analysis to contain 4·6 parts excess water, and was 38·03 degrees under proof, instead of 35 degrees as allowed by law. The seller was fined £3 and £1/1/0 costs. Heard before the Borough Bench on November 23rd, 1925.

A. E. CRABTREE,

Inspector of Food & Drugs,

Retford.





